Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (original)   A method of diagramming a network having a plurality of devices, comprising the steps of:

a)   determining a plurality of hierarchical layers for said network, wherein said devices are arranged in said hierarchical layers;

b)   determining one or more groups in each hierarchical layer, wherein each group includes at least one device;

c)   determining a first linked group having a first group from a first hierarchical layer and a first associated group having at least one group from a second hierarchical layer;

d)   forming a first cross-sectional representation corresponding to said first linked group, wherein said first cross-sectional representation has a first inner portion representing said first group and a first outer portion having one or more sections each section corresponding to a group from said first associated group; and

e)   forming a plurality of initial reduced-size cross-sectional representations each located in each section of said first cross-sectional representation, wherein each initial reduced-size cross-sectional representation

is similar to said first cross-sectional representation, wherein each group from said first associated group forms one of a plurality of second linked groups each second linked group having said group from said first associated group and a second associated group having at least one group from a third hierarchical layer, wherein each initial reduced-size cross-sectional representation has a reduced-size outer portion and a reduced-size inner portion, wherein each reduced-size inner portion represents said group which is from said first associated group and which is associated with said section in which said reduced-size inner portion is located, and wherein each reduced-size outer portion has one or more reduced-size sections each reduced-size section corresponding to a group from said second associated group of one of said second linked groups.

2. (original)   A method as recited in Claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

f)   forming a second cross-sectional representation corresponding to one of said initial reduced-size cross-sectional representations, wherein said second cross-sectional representation has a second outer portion and a second inner portion each portion configured to represent an enlarged version of said reduced-size outer portion and said reduced-size inner portion respectively of said initial reduced-size cross-sectional representation, wherein said second cross-sectional representation is similar to said first cross-sectional representation; and

g)   forming a plurality of additional reduced-size cross-sectional representations each located in each section of said second outer portion of said second cross-sectional representation, wherein each additional reduced-size cross-sectional representation is similar to said second cross-sectional representation, wherein each group from said second associated group forms one of a plurality of third linked groups each third linked group having said group from said second associated group and a third associated group having at least one group from a fourth hierarchical layer, wherein each additional reduced-size cross-sectional representation has a second reduced-size outer portion and a second reduced-size inner portion, wherein each second reduced-size inner portion represents said group which is from said second associated group and which is associated with said section in which said second reduced-size inner portion is located, and wherein each second reduced-size outer portion has one or more second reduced-size sections each second reduced-size section corresponding to a group from said third associated group of one of said third linked groups.

3. (original)   A method as recited in Claim 2 wherein a miniature version of one of said additional reduced-size cross-sectional representations is located in each reduced-size section of each initial reduced-size cross-sectional representation.

4. (original)   A method as recited in Claim 2 further comprising the steps of:

h)   forming a third cross-sectional representation corresponding to one of said additional reduced-size cross-sectional representations, wherein said third cross-sectional representation has a third outer portion and a third inner portion each portion configured to represent an enlarged version of said second reduced-size outer portion and said second reduced-size inner portion respectively of said additional reduced-size cross-sectional representation, wherein said third cross-sectional representation is similar to said second cross-sectional representation; and

i)   forming a plurality of next reduced-size cross-sectional representations each located in each section of said third outer portion of said third cross-sectional representation, wherein each next reduced-size cross-sectional representation is similar to said third cross-sectional representation, wherein each group from said third associated group forms one of a plurality of fourth linked groups each fourth link group having said group from said third associated group and a fourth associated group having at least one group from a fifth hierarchical layer, wherein each next reduced-size cross-sectional representation has a third reduced-size outer portion and a third reduced-size inner portion, wherein each third reduced-size inner portion represents said group which is from said third associated group and which is associated with said section in which said third reduced-size inner portion is located, and wherein each third reduced-size outer portion has one or more third reduced-size

sections each third reduced-size section corresponding to a group from said fourth associated group of one of said fourth linked groups.

5. (original)   A method as recited in Claim 1 wherein said first cross-sectional representation and said initial reduced-size cross-sectional representations each have a circular shape.

6. (original)   A method as recited in Claim 1 wherein said first outer portion and said reduced-size outer portions each have a ring shape.

7. (currently amended) A method of diagramming a network having a plurality of devices, comprising the steps of:

a)   determining a plurality of hierarchical layers for said network, wherein said devices are arranged in said hierarchical layers;

b)   determining one or more groups in each hierarchical layer, wherein each group includes at least one device; and

c)   forming a multi-layered cross-sectional diagram corresponding to said network, wherein said multi-layered cross-sectional diagram has a plurality of cross-sectional representations which are similar to each other, wherein said plurality of cross-sectional representations have a plurality of sizes, and wherein each cross-sectional representation is adapted to visually represent a group from a hierarchical layer and is adapted to visually represent one or more other groups from another hierarchical layer, wherein said step c) includes:

c1)   determining a first linked group having a first group from a first hierarchical layer and a first associated group having at least one group from a second hierarchical layer;

c2)   forming a first cross-sectional representation corresponding to said first linked group, wherein said first cross-sectional representation has a first inner portion representing said first group and a first outer portion having one or more sections each section corresponding to a group from said first associated group; and

c3)   forming a plurality of initial reduced-size cross-sectional representations each located in each section of said first cross-sectional representation, wherein each initial reduced-size cross-sectional representation is similar to said first cross-sectional representation, wherein each group from said first associated group forms one of a plurality of second linked groups each second linked group having said group from said first associated group and a second associated group having at least one group from a third hierarchical layer, wherein each initial reduced-size cross-sectional representation has a reduced-size outer portion and a reduced-size inner portion, wherein each reduced-size inner portion represents said group which is from said first associated group and which is associated with said section in which said reduced-size inner portion is located, and wherein each reduced-size outer portion has one or more reduced-size sections each reduced-size section corresponding to a group from said second associated group of one of said second linked groups.

Claim 8 (cancelled)

9. (currently amended) A method as recited in Claim 8 7 wherein said step

c) further comprises the steps of:

c4)   forming a second cross-sectional representation corresponding to

one of said initial reduced-size cross-sectional representations, wherein said

second cross-sectional representation has a second outer portion and a second

inner portion each portion configured to represent an enlarged version of said

reduced-size outer portion and said reduced-size inner portion respectively of

said initial reduced-size cross-sectional representation, wherein said second

cross-sectional representation is similar to said first cross-sectional

representation; and

c5)   forming a plurality of additional reduced-size cross-sectional

representations each located in each section of said second outer portion of said

second cross-sectional representation, wherein each additional reduced-size

cross-sectional representation is similar to said second cross-sectional

representation, wherein each group from said second associated group forms

one of a plurality of third linked groups each third linked group having said group

from said second associated group and a third associated group having at least

one group from a fourth hierarchical layer, wherein each additional reduced-size

cross-sectional representation has a second reduced-size outer portion and a

second reduced-size inner portion, wherein each second reduced-size inner

portion represents said group which is from said second associated group and which is associated with said section in which said second reduced-size inner portion is located, and wherein each second reduced-size outer portion has one or more second reduced-size sections each second reduced-size section corresponding to a group from said third associated group of one of said third linked groups.

10. (original) A method as recited in Claim 9 wherein a miniature version of one of said additional reduced-size cross-sectional representations is located in each reduced-size section of each initial reduced-size cross-sectional representation.

11. (original) A method as recited in Claim 9 wherein said step c) further comprises the steps of:

c6)   forming a third cross-sectional representation corresponding to one of said additional reduced-size cross-sectional representations, wherein said third cross-sectional representation has a third outer portion and a third inner portion each portion configured to represent an enlarged version of said second reduced-size outer portion and said second reduced-size inner portion respectively of said additional reduced-size cross-sectional representation, wherein said third cross-sectional representation is similar to said second cross-sectional representation; and

c7)　　forming a plurality of next reduced-size cross-sectional representations each located in each section of said third outer portion of said third cross-sectional representation, wherein each next reduced-size cross-sectional representation is similar to said third cross-sectional representation, wherein each group from said third associated group forms one of a plurality of fourth linked groups each fourth link group having said group from said third associated group and a fourth associated group having at least one group from a fifth hierarchical layer, wherein each next reduced-size cross-sectional representation has a third reduced-size outer portion and a third reduced-size inner portion, wherein each third reduced-size inner portion represents said group which is from said third associated group and which is associated with said section in which said third reduced-size inner portion is located, and wherein each third reduced-size outer portion has one or more third reduced-size sections each third reduced-size section corresponding to a group from said fourth associated group of one of said fourth linked groups.

12. (currently amended) A method as recited in Claim 8 7 wherein said first cross-sectional representation and said initial reduced-size cross-sectional representations each have a circular shape.

13. (currently amended) A method as recited in Claim 8 7 wherein said first outer portion and said reduced-size outer portions each have a ring shape.

14. (original) A computer system comprising:

a bus;

a processor coupled to said bus; and

a memory device coupled to said bus and having computer-executable instructions stored therein for performing a method of diagramming a network having a plurality of devices, said method comprising the steps of:

a)   determining a plurality of hierarchical layers for said network, wherein said devices are arranged in said hierarchical layers;

b)   determining one or more groups in each hierarchical layer, wherein each group includes at least one device;

c)   determining a first linked group having a first group from a first hierarchical layer and a first associated group having at least one group from a second hierarchical layer;

d)   forming a first cross-sectional representation corresponding to said first linked group, wherein said first cross-sectional representation has a first inner portion representing said first group and a first outer portion having one or more sections each section corresponding to a group from said first associated group; and

e)   forming a plurality of initial reduced-size cross-sectional representations each located in each section of said first cross-sectional representation, wherein each initial reduced-size cross-sectional representation is similar to said first cross-sectional representation, wherein each group from said first associated group forms one of a plurality of second linked groups each

second linked group having said group from said first associated group and a second associated group having at least one group from a third hierarchical layer, wherein each initial reduced-size cross-sectional representation has a reduced-size outer portion and a reduced-size inner portion, wherein each reduced-size inner portion represents said group which is from said first associated group and which is associated with said section in which said reduced-size inner portion is located, and wherein each reduced-size outer portion has one or more reduced-size sections each reduced-size section corresponding to a group from said second associated group of one of said second linked groups.

15. (original) A computer system as recited in Claim 14 further comprising the steps of:

f) forming a second cross-sectional representation corresponding to one of said initial reduced-size cross-sectional representations, wherein said second cross-sectional representation has a second outer portion and a second inner portion each portion configured to represent an enlarged version of said reduced-size outer portion and said reduced-size inner portion respectively of said initial reduced-size cross-sectional representation, wherein said second cross-sectional representation is similar to said first cross-sectional representation; and

g) forming a plurality of additional reduced-size cross-sectional representations each located in each section of said second outer portion of said

second cross-sectional representation, wherein each additional reduced-size cross-sectional representation is similar to said second cross-sectional representation, wherein each group from said second associated group forms one of a plurality of third linked groups each third linked group having said group from said second associated group and a third associated group having at least one group from a fourth hierarchical layer, wherein each additional reduced-size cross-sectional representation has a second reduced-size outer portion and a second reduced-size inner portion, wherein each second reduced-size inner portion represents said group which is from said second associated group and which is associated with said section in which said second reduced-size inner portion is located, and wherein each second reduced-size outer portion has one or more second reduced-size sections each second reduced-size section corresponding to a group from said third associated group of one of said third linked groups.

16. (original) A computer system as recited in Claim 15 wherein a miniature version of one of said additional reduced-size cross-sectional representations is located in each reduced-size section of each initial reduced-size cross-sectional representation.

17. (original) A computer system as recited in Claim 15 further comprising the steps of:

h) forming a third cross-sectional representation corresponding to one of said additional reduced-size cross-sectional representations, wherein said third cross-sectional representation has a third outer portion and a third inner portion each portion configured to represent an enlarged version of said second reduced-size outer portion and said second reduced-size inner portion respectively of said additional reduced-size cross-sectional representation, wherein said third cross-sectional representation is similar to said second cross-sectional representation; and

i) forming a plurality of next reduced-size cross-sectional representations each located in each section of said third outer portion of said third cross-sectional representation, wherein each next reduced-size cross-sectional representation is similar to said third cross-sectional representation, wherein each group from said third associated group forms one of a plurality of fourth linked groups each fourth link group having said group from said third associated group and a fourth associated group having at least one group from a fifth hierarchical layer, wherein each next reduced-size cross-sectional representation has a third reduced-size outer portion and a third reduced-size inner portion, wherein each third reduced-size inner portion represents said group which is from said third associated group and which is associated with said section in which said third reduced-size inner portion is located, and wherein each third reduced-size outer portion has one or more third reduced-size sections each third reduced-size section corresponding to a group from said fourth associated group of one of said fourth linked groups.

18. (original)   A computer system as recited in Claim 14 wherein said first cross-sectional representation and said initial reduced-size cross-sectional representations each have a circular shape.

19. (original) A computer system as recited in Claim 14 wherein said first outer portion and said reduced-size outer portions each have a ring shape.

20. (currently amended) A computer system comprising:

a bus;

a processor coupled to said bus; and

a memory device coupled to said bus and having computer-executable instructions stored therein for performing a method of diagramming a network having a plurality of devices, said method comprising the steps of:

a)   determining a plurality of hierarchical layers for said network, wherein said devices are arranged in said hierarchical layers;

b)   determining one or more groups in each hierarchical layer, wherein each group includes at least one device; and

c)   forming a multi-layered cross-sectional diagram corresponding to said network, wherein said multi-layered cross-sectional diagram has a plurality of cross-sectional representations which are similar to each other, wherein said plurality of cross-sectional representations have a plurality of sizes, and wherein each cross-sectional representation is adapted to visually represent a group from

a hierarchical layer and is adapted to visually represent one or more other

groups from another hierarchical layer, wherein said step c) includes:

c1)   determining a first linked group having a first group from a first

hierarchical layer and a first associated group having at least one group from a

second hierarchical layer;

c2)   forming a first cross-sectional representation corresponding to said

first linked group, wherein said first cross-sectional representation has a first

inner portion representing said first group and a first outer portion having one or

more sections each section corresponding to a group from said first associated

group; and

c3)   forming a plurality of initial reduced-size cross-sectional

representations each located in each section of said first cross-sectional

representation, wherein each initial reduced-size cross-sectional representation

is similar to said first cross-sectional representation, wherein each group from

said first associated group forms one of a plurality of second linked groups each

second linked group having said group from said first associated group and a

second associated group having at least one group from a third hierarchical

layer, wherein each initial reduced-size cross-sectional representation has a

reduced-size outer portion and a reduced-size inner portion, wherein each

reduced-size inner portion represents said group which is from said first

associated group and which is associated with said section in which said

reduced-size inner portion is located, and wherein each reduced-size outer

portion has one or more reduced-size sections each reduced-size section

corresponding to a group from said second associated group of one of said second linked groups.

Claim 21 (cancelled)

22. (currently amended) A computer system as recited in Claim ~~21~~ 20 wherein said step c) further comprises the steps of:

c4) forming a second cross-sectional representation corresponding to one of said initial reduced-size cross-sectional representations, wherein said second cross-sectional representation has a second outer portion and a second inner portion each portion configured to represent an enlarged version of said reduced-size outer portion and said reduced-size inner portion respectively of said initial reduced-size cross-sectional representation, wherein said second cross-sectional representation is similar to said first cross-sectional representation; and

c5) forming a plurality of additional reduced-size cross-sectional representations each located in each section of said second outer portion of said second cross-sectional representation, wherein each additional reduced-size cross-sectional representation is similar to said second cross-sectional representation, wherein each group from said second associated group forms one of a plurality of third linked groups each third linked group having said group from said second associated group and a third associated group having at least one group from a fourth hierarchical layer, wherein each additional reduced-size

cross-sectional representation has a second reduced-size outer portion and a second reduced-size inner portion, wherein each second reduced-size inner portion represents said group which is from said second associated group and which is associated with said section in which said second reduced-size inner portion is located, and wherein each second reduced-size outer portion has one or more second reduced-size sections each second reduced-size section corresponding to a group from said third associated group of one of said third linked groups.

23. (original) A computer system as recited in Claim 22 wherein a miniature version of one of said additional reduced-size cross-sectional representations is located in each reduced-size section of each initial reduced-size cross-sectional representation.

24. (original) A computer system as recited in Claim 22 wherein said step c) further comprises the steps of:

c6)   forming a third cross-sectional representation corresponding to one of said additional reduced-size cross-sectional representations, wherein said third cross-sectional representation has a third outer portion and a third inner portion each portion configured to represent an enlarged version of said second reduced-size outer portion and said second reduced-size inner portion respectively of said additional reduced-size cross-sectional representation,

wherein said third cross-sectional representation is similar to said second cross-sectional representation; and

c7)   forming a plurality of next reduced-size cross-sectional representations each located in each section of said third outer portion of said third cross-sectional representation, wherein each next reduced-size cross-sectional representation is similar to said third cross-sectional representation, wherein each group from said third associated group forms one of a plurality of fourth linked groups each fourth link group having said group from said third associated group and a fourth associated group having at least one group from a fifth hierarchical layer, wherein each next reduced-size cross-sectional representation has a third reduced-size outer portion and a third reduced-size inner portion, wherein each third reduced-size inner portion represents said group which is from said third associated group and which is associated with said section in which said third reduced-size inner portion is located, and wherein each third reduced-size outer portion has one or more third reduced-size sections each third reduced-size section corresponding to a group from said fourth associated group of one of said fourth linked groups.

25. (currently amended) A computer system as recited in Claim 2̶1̶ 20 wherein said first cross-sectional representation and said initial reduced-size cross-sectional representations each have a circular shape.

26. (currently amended) A computer system as recited in Claim ~~21~~ 20 wherein said first outer portion and said reduced-size outer portions each have a ring shape.

27. (original) A computer-readable medium comprising computer-executable instructions stored therein for performing a method of diagramming a network having a plurality of devices, said method comprising the steps of:

a)   determining a plurality of hierarchical layers for said network, wherein said devices are arranged in said hierarchical layers;

b)   determining one or more groups in each hierarchical layer, wherein each group includes at least one device;

c)   determining a first linked group having a first group from a first hierarchical layer and a first associated group having at least one group from a second hierarchical layer;

d)   forming a first cross-sectional representation corresponding to said first linked group, wherein said first cross-sectional representation has a first inner portion representing said first group and a first outer portion having one or more sections each section corresponding to a group from said first associated group; and

e)   forming a plurality of initial reduced-size cross-sectional representations each located in each section of said first cross-sectional representation, wherein each initial reduced-size cross-sectional representation is similar to said first cross-sectional representation, wherein each group from

said first associated group forms one of a plurality of second linked groups each second linked group having said group from said first associated group and a second associated group having at least one group from a third hierarchical layer, wherein each initial reduced-size cross-sectional representation has a reduced-size outer portion and a reduced-size inner portion, wherein each reduced-size inner portion represents said group which is from said first associated group and which is associated with said section in which said reduced-size inner portion is located, and wherein each reduced-size outer portion has one or more reduced-size sections each reduced-size section corresponding to a group from said second associated group of one of said second linked groups.

28. (original) A computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 27 wherein said method further comprises the steps of:

f) forming a second cross-sectional representation corresponding to one of said initial reduced-size cross-sectional representations, wherein said second cross-sectional representation has a second outer portion and a second inner portion each portion configured to represent an enlarged version of said reduced-size outer portion and said reduced-size inner portion respectively of said initial reduced-size cross-sectional representation, wherein said second cross-sectional representation is similar to said first cross-sectional representation; and

g) forming a plurality of additional reduced-size cross-sectional representations each located in each section of said second outer portion of said second cross-sectional representation, wherein each additional reduced-size cross-sectional representation is similar to said second cross-sectional representation, wherein each group from said second associated group forms one of a plurality of third linked groups each third linked group having said group from said second associated group and a third associated group having at least one group from a fourth hierarchical layer, wherein each additional reduced-size cross-sectional representation has a second reduced-size outer portion and a second reduced-size inner portion, wherein each second reduced-size inner portion represents said group which is from said second associated group and which is associated with said section in which said second reduced-size inner portion is located, and wherein each second reduced-size outer portion has one or more second reduced-size sections each second reduced-size section corresponding to a group from said third associated group of one of said third linked groups.

29. (original) A computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 28 wherein a miniature version of one of said additional reduced-size cross-sectional representations is located in each reduced-size section of each initial reduced-size cross-sectional representation.

30. (original) A computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 28 wherein said method further comprises the steps of:

h) forming a third cross-sectional representation corresponding to one of said additional reduced-size cross-sectional representations, wherein said third cross-sectional representation has a third outer portion and a third inner portion each portion configured to represent an enlarged version of said second reduced-size outer portion and said second reduced-size inner portion respectively of said additional reduced-size cross-sectional representation, wherein said third cross-sectional representation is similar to said second cross-sectional representation; and

i) forming a plurality of next reduced-size cross-sectional representations each located in each section of said third outer portion of said third cross-sectional representation, wherein each next reduced-size cross-sectional representation is similar to said third cross-sectional representation, wherein each group from said third associated group forms one of a plurality of fourth linked groups each fourth link group having said group from said third associated group and a fourth associated group having at least one group from a fifth hierarchical layer, wherein each next reduced-size cross-sectional representation has a third reduced-size outer portion and a third reduced-size inner portion, wherein each third reduced-size inner portion represents said group which is from said third associated group and which is associated with said section in which said third reduced-size inner portion is located, and wherein each third reduced-size outer portion has one or more third reduced-size

sections each third reduced-size section corresponding to a group from said

fourth associated group of one of said fourth linked groups.

31. (original) A computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 27 wherein

said first cross-sectional representation and said initial reduced-size cross-

sectional representations each have a circular shape.

32. (original) A computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 27 wherein

said first outer portion and said reduced-size outer portions each have a ring

shape.

33. (original) A system for diagramming a network having a plurality of

devices, comprising:

a)   means for determining a plurality of hierarchical layers for said

network, wherein said devices are arranged in said hierarchical layers;

b)   means for determining one or more groups in each hierarchical

layer, wherein each group includes at least one device;

c)   means for determining a first linked group having a first group from

a first hierarchical layer and a first associated group having at least one group

from a second hierarchical layer;

d)   means for forming a first cross-sectional representation

corresponding to said first linked group, wherein said first cross-sectional

representation has a first inner portion representing said first group and a first

outer portion having one or more sections each section corresponding to a group from said first associated group; and

e)   means for forming a plurality of initial reduced-size cross-sectional representations each located in each section of said first cross-sectional representation, wherein each initial reduced-size cross-sectional representation is similar to said first cross-sectional representation, wherein each group from said first associated group forms one of a plurality of second linked groups each second linked group having said group from said first associated group and a second associated group having at least one group from a third hierarchical layer, wherein each initial reduced-size cross-sectional representation has a reduced-size outer portion and a reduced-size inner portion, wherein each reduced-size inner portion represents said group which is from said first associated group and which is associated with said section in which said reduced-size inner portion is located, and wherein each reduced-size outer portion has one or more reduced-size sections each reduced-size section corresponding to a group from said second associated group of one of said second linked groups.

34. (original) A system as recited in Claim 33 further comprising:

f)   means for forming a second cross-sectional representation corresponding to one of said initial reduced-size cross-sectional representations, wherein said second cross-sectional representation has a second outer portion and a second inner portion each portion configured to represent an enlarged

version of said reduced-size outer portion and said reduced-size inner portion respectively of said initial reduced-size cross-sectional representation, wherein said second cross-sectional representation is similar to said first cross-sectional representation; and

g)   means for forming a plurality of additional reduced-size cross-sectional representations each located in each section of said second outer portion of said second cross-sectional representation, wherein each additional reduced-size cross-sectional representation is similar to said second cross-sectional representation, wherein each group from said second associated group forms one of a plurality of third linked groups each third linked group having said group from said second associated group and a third associated group having at least one group from a fourth hierarchical layer, wherein each additional reduced-size cross-sectional representation has a second reduced-size outer portion and a second reduced-size inner portion, wherein each second reduced-size inner portion represents said group which is from said second associated group and which is associated with said section in which said second reduced-size inner portion is located, and wherein each second reduced-size outer portion has one or more second reduced-size sections each second reduced-size section corresponding to a group from said third associated group of one of said third linked groups.

35. (original) A system as recited in Claim 34 wherein a miniature version of one of said additional reduced-size cross-sectional representations is located

in each reduced-size section of each initial reduced-size cross-sectional representation.

36. (original) A system as recited in Claim 34 further comprising:

h)   means for forming a third cross-sectional representation corresponding to one of said additional reduced-size cross-sectional representations, wherein said third cross-sectional representation has a third outer portion and a third inner portion each portion configured to represent an enlarged version of said second reduced-size outer portion and said second reduced-size inner portion respectively of said additional reduced-size cross-sectional representation, wherein said third cross-sectional representation is similar to said second cross-sectional representation; and

i)   means for forming a plurality of next reduced-size cross-sectional representations each located in each section of said third outer portion of said third cross-sectional representation, wherein each next reduced-size cross-sectional representation is similar to said third cross-sectional representation, wherein each group from said third associated group forms one of a plurality of fourth linked groups each fourth link group having said group from said third associated group and a fourth associated group having at least one group from a fifth hierarchical layer, wherein each next reduced-size cross-sectional representation has a third reduced-size outer portion and a third reduced-size inner portion, wherein each third reduced-size inner portion represents said group which is from said third associated group and which is associated with

said section in which said third reduced-size inner portion is located, and wherein each third reduced-size outer portion has one or more third reduced-size sections each third reduced-size section corresponding to a group from said fourth associated group of one of said fourth linked groups.

37. (original) A system as recited in Claim 33 wherein said first cross-sectional representation and said initial reduced-size cross-sectional representations each have a circular shape.

38. (original) A system as recited in Claim 33 wherein said first outer portion and said reduced-size outer portions each have a ring shape.

39. (currently amended) A computer-readable medium comprising computer-executable instructions stored therein for performing a method of diagramming a network having a plurality of devices, said method comprising the steps of:

a)   determining a plurality of hierarchical layers for said network, wherein said devices are arranged in said hierarchical layers;

b)   determining one or more groups in each hierarchical layer, wherein each group includes at least one device; and

c)   forming a multi-layered cross-sectional diagram corresponding to said network, wherein said multi-layered cross-sectional diagram has a plurality of cross-sectional representations which are similar to each other, wherein said

plurality of cross-sectional representations have a plurality of sizes, and wherein

each cross-sectional representation is adapted to visually represent a group from

a hierarchical layer and is adapted to visually represent one or more other

groups from another hierarchical layer, wherein said step c) includes:

c1)   determining a first linked group having a first group from a first

hierarchical layer and a first associated group having at least one group from a

second hierarchical layer;

c2)   forming a first cross-sectional representation corresponding to said

first linked group, wherein said first cross-sectional representation has a first

inner portion representing said first group and a first outer portion having one or

more sections each section corresponding to a group from said first associated

group; and

c3)   forming a plurality of initial reduced-size cross-sectional

representations each located in each section of said first cross-sectional

representation, wherein each initial reduced-size cross-sectional representation

is similar to said first cross-sectional representation, wherein each group from

said first associated group forms one of a plurality of second linked groups each

second linked group having said group from said first associated group and a

second associated group having at least one group from a third hierarchical

layer, wherein each initial reduced-size cross-sectional representation has a

reduced-size outer portion and a reduced-size inner portion, wherein each

reduced-size inner portion represents said group which is from said first

associated group and which is associated with said section in which said

reduced-size inner portion is located, and wherein each reduced-size outer

portion has one or more reduced-size sections each reduced-size section

corresponding to a group from said second associated group of one of said

second linked groups.

Claim 40 (cancelled)

41. (currently amended) A computer-readable medium as recited in Claim

~~40~~ 39 wherein said step c) further comprises the steps of:

c4)   forming a second cross-sectional representation corresponding to

one of said initial reduced-size cross-sectional representations, wherein said

second cross-sectional representation has a second outer portion and a second

inner portion each portion configured to represent an enlarged version of said

reduced-size outer portion and said reduced-size inner portion respectively of

said initial reduced-size cross-sectional representation, wherein said second

cross-sectional representation is similar to said first cross-sectional

representation; and

c5)   forming a plurality of additional reduced-size cross-sectional

representations each located in each section of said second outer portion of said

second cross-sectional representation, wherein each additional reduced-size

cross-sectional representation is similar to said second cross-sectional

representation, wherein each group from said second associated group forms

one of a plurality of third linked groups each third linked group having said group

from said second associated group and a third associated group having at least one group from a fourth hierarchical layer, wherein each additional reduced-size cross-sectional representation has a second reduced-size outer portion and a second reduced-size inner portion, wherein each second reduced-size inner portion represents said group which is from said second associated group and which is associated with said section in which said second reduced-size inner portion is located, and wherein each second reduced-size outer portion has one or more second reduced-size sections each second reduced-size section corresponding to a group from said third associated group of one of said third linked groups.

42. (original) A computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 41 wherein a miniature version of one of said additional reduced-size cross-sectional representations is located in each reduced-size section of each initial reduced-size cross-sectional representation.

43. (original) A computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 41 wherein said step c) further comprises the steps of:

c6)   forming a third cross-sectional representation corresponding to one of said additional reduced-size cross-sectional representations, wherein said third cross-sectional representation has a third outer portion and a third inner portion each portion configured to represent an enlarged version of said second reduced-size outer portion and said second reduced-size inner portion

respectively of said additional reduced-size cross-sectional representation, wherein said third cross-sectional representation is similar to said second cross-sectional representation; and

c7)   forming a plurality of next reduced-size cross-sectional representations each located in each section of said third outer portion of said third cross-sectional representation, wherein each next reduced-size cross-sectional representation is similar to said third cross-sectional representation, wherein each group from said third associated group forms one of a plurality of fourth linked groups each fourth link group having said group from said third associated group and a fourth associated group having at least one group from a fifth hierarchical layer, wherein each next reduced-size cross-sectional representation has a third reduced-size outer portion and a third reduced-size inner portion, wherein each third reduced-size inner portion represents said group which is from said third associated group and which is associated with said section in which said third reduced-size inner portion is located, and wherein each third reduced-size outer portion has one or more third reduced-size sections each third reduced-size section corresponding to a group from said fourth associated group of one of said fourth linked groups.

44. (currently amended) A computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 40 39 wherein said first cross-sectional representation and said initial reduced-size cross-sectional representations each have a circular shape.

45. (currently amended) A computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 40 39 wherein said first outer portion and said reduced-size outer portions each have a ring shape.